

LIFE OF ALI

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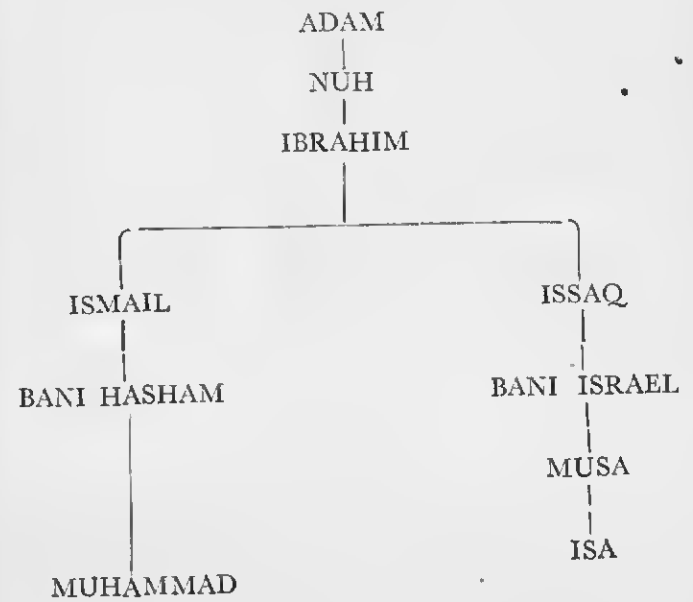
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LINEAL CHART OF THE PROPHETS



A SHORT, SHORT, LIFE OF ALI

LINEAGE

The Holy Prophet has said

“The first thing God created was my Noor” and “*I, Ali, Fatemah, Hasan and Husein are from one Noor.*”

The oldest and noblest tribe in the whole of Arabia was Bani Hashim. They were the descendants of Ibrahim through his son Ismail. The Arabs respected and loved them for their generosity, goodness, knowledge and bravery.

Abdul Muttalib was the chieftain of Bani Hashim and he was also the guardian of the Kaaba.

Among his ten sons, Abdullah was the father of the Holy Prophet and Abu Talib was the father of Ali.

BIRTH

Ali was born in the House of God, the Kaaba, on 13th Rajab, 23 years before Hijri.

On the death of Abdul Muttalib, Abu Talib was appointed the guardian of Muhammad and was charged with the responsibility of bringing him up. Muhammad and Ali grew up in the same house. The Prophet was considerably older and he looked after and trained Ali with great love and care.

The Apostle of Allah said that he and Ali were two pieces of the same Noor.

SUCCESSOR AND CALIPH

According to the Holy Quran, Prophets and Apostolic Imams are chosen by God and not elected, selected, nominated or appointed by men.

When under Divine instructions the Prophet invited 40 Arab chieftains and delivered the message of Islam, he proclaimed Ali his Successor and Caliph.

When the Holy Prophet of Islam was returning to Medina after his last pilgrimage to Mecca in 11 A. H., he, under Divine instruction, stopped at Gadir-i-Khum and in the midst of 1,24,000 Muslims, he officially and finally proclaimed Ali his Successor and Caliph.

HAPPY DAYS

The infant Ali passed very happy days in the laps of his mother Fatemah Bint-i-Asad, father Abu Talib and cousin Muhammad.

Under love, care and happiness, Ali flowered into a handsome, eloquent, strong and courageous young boy of 13.

At this time Muhammad started preaching Islam. Naturally Ali was the first to declare his belief in Allah and His Apostle.

PERSECUTION

Gone were the days of tranquility and peace. The Kafirs started persecuting the Prophet in numerous ways, for no fault other than that of delivering to them the Message of God. Ali helped and supported the Prophet whenever necessary.

The unbelievers made the boys and the riff-raffs of Mecca abuse the Holy Prophet and pelt stones at him. Loyal and brave Ali always defended the Prophet. With his strong fists he gave the rascals severe beatings, after that none of them dare molest the Prophet.

HIJRAT

In Mecca life for the believers and the Apostle became unbearable, owing to the cruelties and persecution of the Kafirs; so the Holy Prophet decided to migrate to Medina.

On the night of his departure from Mecca, the Prophet asked Ali to sleep in his place on his bed, so he could leave for Medina without the Kafirs having any knowledge of his absence. Though Ali knew that the house was surrendered with 40 armed enemies, he dauntlessly slept the whole night and said that he had never slept better. The Holy Prophet reached Medina safely and soon after, Ali joined the Apostle at Medina.

WARRIOR

*Mehrab main Muhammad,
Maidan main Ali,
Salwat bar Muhammad,
Sallu ala Ali.*

Ali executed every order, command and injunction of the Holy Quran and the Apostle, as it should be done and none was his equal.

BADR

The idolaters of Mecca would not allow Islam to grow and spread in peace.

Abu Sufiyan, the chieftain of the Oomayya tribe, a bitter enemy of the Holy Prophet and Islam marched to Medina at the head of 1000 well-armed and trained fighters with the intention of killing the Apostle of Allah and the believers.

The Holy Prophet collected his small band of 313 faithful followers. The defence was made up of ill-equipped fighters, including young boys and old men.

Instead of waiting for the attackers, the Prophet decided to meet them at a little distance from Medina at a place called Badr.

The fighting was fast and furious and the Kafirs were defeated. Ali made a name for himself for his bravery. It was his sword that routed the enemy.

OHAD

Next year Abu Sufiyan came again with 10,000 men. The Prophet met him at Ohad with a 1000 believers who were posted at various strategic places of defence.

A few Muslims were given specific instructions not to leave their position, no matter what happened.

The battle began and with the help of God, the believers inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, who began to flee. In spite of the strict instructions of the Holy Prophet, a few Muslims deserted their post and ran after the enemy to loot.

Khalid-bin-Walid, one of the officers of Abu-Sufiyan, seeing the position occupied by Muslims undefended, attacked the Believers. Many believers were killed and a winning fight began to become a losing one. Ali came to the rescue and beat off the attack.

Hamza, the brave uncle of the Apostle was killed in action.

After Hamza, Ali was the flag bearer of Islam. Ali was the only commander of the Holy Prophet during his life and no other person was given the command of the Prophet's armies in the battles in which the Holy Prophet was himself taking part.

The last Flag bearer of the Prophet was Abbas son of Ali in Kerbala.

The wife of Abu Sufiyan, cut open the liver of Hamza and drank his blood. Then she made a necklace of the ears and noses of the Shahids and wore it round her neck.

When the Muslims returned to Medina to weep and mourn for their dead, the Apostle ordered that Maatam of Hamza be observed before the Maatam of their own dead.

KHANDAK

The battle of Khandak took place because Abu Sufiyan collected many infidel tribes against the Prophet and invaded Medina. To make Medina safe the Prophet ordered a trench (Khandak) to be dug around a part of the City and therefore this battle is called the battle of Khandak. In this battle the

enemy warrior Amar challenged the muslims to single combat. All the companions of the Prophet were present, yet none stirred except Ali. But Muhammad restrained him. The challenge was repeated for the second time, even then no one moved to accept it but Ali. Again the Apostle stopped him. When they were challenged for the third time and again there was a silence from all and again Ali offered to face Amar, the Prophet gave him the permission. The Lion of God jumped out of the Khandak and accepted the challenge. The Holy Prophet of Islam said, "Total Iman (faith) is now going to fight total Kufer (disbelief) and one stroke of Ali's sword is better than all the prayers and worship of those in heaven and earth."

Ali with one stroke of the Zulfikar, killed the warrior. In the general encounter the enemy was defeated.

KHAIBAR

The Jews of Khaibar went back on their agreement with the Prophet and started harassing and killing the Muslims.

An army led by the Apostle surrounded the fortresses of Khaibar. Ali was at Medina because of pain in his eyes.

For many days, the Muslims attacked the fort but were unsuccessful. After some days the Holy Prophet declared, "Tomorrow, I will give the flag to one who will not run away. He will attack repeatedly and Allah will crown him with victory. Allah and the Apostle are his friends and he is their friend."

Next morning soon after prayers, a horseman came galloping, a cloud of dust flying behind him. It was Ali and when he dismounted, Muhammad asked him about his eyes. When Ali said that they were still paining, the Prophet applied his saliva. The pain vanished and Ali said that his vision had never been better.

Muhammad gave the Flag of Islam to Ali and prayed for him. Ali dauntlessly marched to the fort.

Murhab, the brave enemy warrior, came out to meet Ali in single combat. According to the Arab custom, Murhab talked of his deeds of bravery and said that his mother called him Murhab (Frightful). Ali retorted that his mother called him Hayder (Furious Lion).

Ali cut Murhab into two pieces and the fort of Khaibar was conquered by Yadullah (Ali).

STATESMAN

At Houdaibiya, Ali was asked by the Holy Prophet to draft and write the peace treaty.

On the occasion of Mobahila with Christians of Najaran, the Holy Prophet asked Ali to give them the terms of settlement.

Ali is the founder of the land revenue system which protected the rights of the tillers of the soil. He gave the world this system, for it was unknown before.

Ali is the father of the Arabic Grammer. He gave the language its grammer.

Sura-e-Barat had to be recited to the people of Mecca. Abu Baker offered to do so and started on his way. The angel Jibraeel came with a message of God asking the Prophet to recall Abu Baker and to go himself or to send a person like him. As the Holy Prophet could not go he decided to send Ali, and Ali represented the Holy Prophet to carry this Sura to Quraish.

PRINCE OF CHARITY GIVERS

Once Ali was returning from a journey with a string of camels fully laden with goods.

On the way a beggar asked for a piece of bread. Ali ordered his beloved slave Qambar to give some bread to the beggar. Qambar started searching for bread. After a few moments Ali asked about the delay. Qambar said, "I am looking for the bread." Ali said, "Give the beggar the camel which carries the food." After a while Ali again inquired about the delay. Qambar replied, "I am searching for the camel carrying the food." "Give the whole caravan", Ali ordered.

Qambar hurriedly jumped off from the camel and handed the reins of the whole caravan to the fortunate beggar.

Ali smiled at the agility of Qambar and asked him, "Why did you jump so quickly and hand over the reins in such a haste?" Qambar replied, "Master, you are in such a mood that on account of a little delay, you gave away the whole caravan. I was afraid if there was some more delay, you might give me away also with the caravan. You will get a thousand slaves like me, but where will I get a master like you?"

Once, after a day's hard work, Ali was sitting under a tree and eating his barley bread and salt. A passing beggar asked him for food. Ali readily offered to share what he was eating and gave the beggar a piece of bread. The old beggar found it difficult to chew and complained that the bread was too hard. Ali informed the beggar that he would get good hot food if he cared to go to Imam Hasan's house.

When the beggar arrived at the given address, he found that a banquet was spread out and people were eating.

Imam Hasan invited the beggar to join them. He started eating and after a while he would eat one mouthful and put one mouthful in his bowl.

Seeing this, Imam Hasan said, "Why are you putting food in your bowl? Have your fill and then you can take some more with you." The beggar replied, "I am collecting some good food for a man, who is eating dry barley bread and salt."

Imam Hasan smiled and said, "That man is Maula Ali and this house is his house."

MARRIAGE

Under Divine instruction, the Apostle of Allah married his beloved daughter Fatemah to Ali.

Among their children, Imam Hasan, Imam Husein, Janabe Zainab and Ume Kulsum have left their marks on the history of the world.

By his other wife, Ummul Banin, Allah gave him Hazrat Abbas who was so handsome that he was fondly called Qamer-e-Bani Hasham and he personified loyalty and bravery in the battle field of Kerbala.

HADIS

When the Apostle led his army to Tabuk, he left Ali in charge of Medina as his Deputy, Vice-regent and Caliph.

On this occasion the Apostle said,

“Ali’s position with me is the same as Haroon’s was with Musa, with only this difference that there will be no prophet after me.”

Muhammad also said;

“I leave behind two things; one is the Holy Quran and the other are my descendants. Hold fast to them both, then you will not go astray.”

But like the ever-shifting sands, the people of Arabia disregarded the sayings of the Holy Prophet and introduced changes which irretrievably divided the Muslims.

WAFAT OF THE PROPHET

During the last days of the month of Safar, the Prophet of Islam was very ill. The Sahabas saw that the Apostle would soon pass away.

The Arabs quickly collected in the Sakifa and the gathering appointed Abu Baker as the Caliph in 11 A.H.

Bani Hashim and the believers could not join the meetings at the Sakifa, as they would not leave their ailing Prophet, who passed away on 28th Safar 11 A. H. Whilst the meetings were going on the Bani Hashim and the believers had to perform their sacred duty of burying the Apostle of Allah.

The reason for this astounding happening was the desire to rule the state. In course of about 80 battles, there was not a tribe or family whose members were not killed by Ali in Jihad, though Allah and His Apostle had chosen Ali as the successor and Caliph.

When Abu Bakar became a caliph he said that now he was charged with the cares of the Government, though he was not the best among them. As death approached him, he nominated Oomer as his successor and caliph in 13 A. H.

For about 10 years, Oomer was the Caliph and before his death a committee of six, selected Oosman of the tribe of Bani Oomayya as the third Caliph in 23 A. H.

Muawyya, the son of Abu Sufiyan, was appointed the Governor of Syria and he was responsible for the murders of Ali and Imam Hasan. Muawyya’s son Yazid butchered Imam Husein, the grandson of the Holy Prophet at Kerbala.

Oosman was killed in 35 A. H. as a result of intrigue by Merwan, his chief minister and adviser.

ALI

Among sufferings and chaos, the Muslims clamoured to elect Ali as the successor of the Holy Prophet and Caliph of Allah.

Looking to the condition of the society, how everyone was running after the world, Ali at first refused to accept the responsibility of the state, but on the third day with great reluctance he agreed to take up the charge and to accept their oath of allegiance as a Caliph.

Following in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet, Ali established the Islamic tolerance and justice, brotherhood and goodness. He re-lit the torch of Islamic learning and progress.

Ali's famous sermons and lectures given from the Mimbar of Masjid-e-Kufa and on other occasions, have been published in a book called the Nahj-ul-Balagha and are worth reading.

In his old age, Ali had to make three more Jihads in the battles of Jamal, Nehrwan and Siffin against the hypocrites, who rebelled and revolted against the commands of the Holy Quran and the Apostle of Allah.

MURDER

Ali's effort to establish the Kingdom of God on earth was cut short by the assassin's sword.

Ibne-Muljim, the tool of Muawyya, murdered Ali while he was saying his morning prayers and the Sher-e-Khuda was crowned with martyrdom on 21st Ramzan 40 A. H. and was buried in Najaf.

Born in the House of God, the Kaaba, and killed in the House of God, Masjid-e-Kufa, the Lion of God, the Lion-hearted and gentlest Muslim that ever lived, began his glorious life with devotion to Allah and his Apostle and ended it in the service of Islam.

"And do not speak of those who are slain in Allah's way as dead; nay, (they are) alive, but you do not perceive."

Ch. II, Ver. 154.

FINANCE MINISTER

One night in the Treasury, Ali was working, under the light of a lamp. His own brother Aqeel came to talk. Ali put out the light and requested Aqeel to come out in the star light. Aqeel asked, "why do you want to talk in the dark?" Ali replied, "The lamp is for the work of Baitul Mal. Now we are having a personal talk, so let us not waste public money over it."

With anxiety in his eyes, Aqeel said, "Ali! I am in difficult circumstances and I want you to give me some money from the Baitul Mal." Ali heated the metallic end of the penholder and touched Aqeel with it.

"I asked you for some money from the Baitul Mal and you burn me."

"You are afraid of this little burn and want me to face the fire of the hell by being dishonest to humanity. Your share from the Baitul Mal has been paid to you, you will not get any more."

SURTAJ-E-AULIA

Every God-fearing, pious, good Muslim knows Ali, the Vali-Allah. In every Dargah Ali is acknowledged as the Surtaj-e-Aulia. Ali's benevolent powers are known and experienced even today by those who love him and they will continue to be felt till the end of time.

Ali, the friend of Allah, does what pleases God and Allah grants what pleases Ali.

MAULA MUSHKIL QUSHA

Ali, the fierce and furious fighter of Khandak, brave, courageous and dauntless conqueror of Khaiber, was the tender helper of the sick and the benefactor of widows, orphans and the poor.

Ali, the Prince of Charity-givers, overshadowed Hatim Taii, by giving away a laden caravan to a beggar when he asked for a piece of bread.

Ali, who himself ate dry barley bread and salt would spread a banquet for the poor and the beggars.

Ali, the Ocean of knowledge, would not speak unless asked.

In order to give dignity to honest labour, Ali rolled up his sleeves and worked on the farms of Jews and Muslims as a labourer.

The mighty Caliph of the Islamic Empire and Conqueror of 83 Jihads would mend his as well as the Apostle's shoes.

There were many phases of Ali and no man ever knew him well.

The prophet of Islam has said,

"Nobody knows Allah except I and Ali."

"Nobody knows me except Allah and Ali."

"Nobody knows Ali except Allah and I."

SAYINGS OF ALI

1. Avarice diminishes one's dignity without increasing one's prospects.
2. Avoiding sin is better than practising virtue.
3. A modest smile is the best laughter.
4. A sweet tongue gets many friends.
5. Brothers enhance our pleasures and sooth our pains.
6. Care for your parents and your children will care for you.
7. Do before you die.
8. During the times of sedition be like the young one of a camel, upon which neither any one can ride nor can it be milked.
9. Do not mind the speaker but mind what he is saying.
10. Extravagance goes before starvation.
11. Extravagance spoils charity.
12. Envy robs a man of his happiness.
13. Frequent remembrance of death decreases one's worldly desires.
14. Forgiving is the crown of greatness.
15. Friendship is impossible with a liar.

16. Generosity hides defects.
17. He is really wise whose actions testify to his words.
18. Humility is the outcome of knowledge.
19. How inconsistent it is to have an ugly soul and handsome body.
20. He who listens to back-biting is a back-biter himself.
21. Jealousy devours virtue as fire devours wood.
22. Knowledge gives life to the soul.
23. Live with your body in this world and with your faith and deeds for the next.
24. None is more solitary than a miser.
25. O God! Bless one whose chief treasure is hope and whose instruments are tears.
26. O Lord! Pardon such sins of mine as spoil Thy blessings I enjoy.
27. O God! Strengthen my limbs for Thy Service.
28. One's behaviour is the index of one's mind.
29. O Thou art quick to bless, pardon one who owns nothing but a prayer.

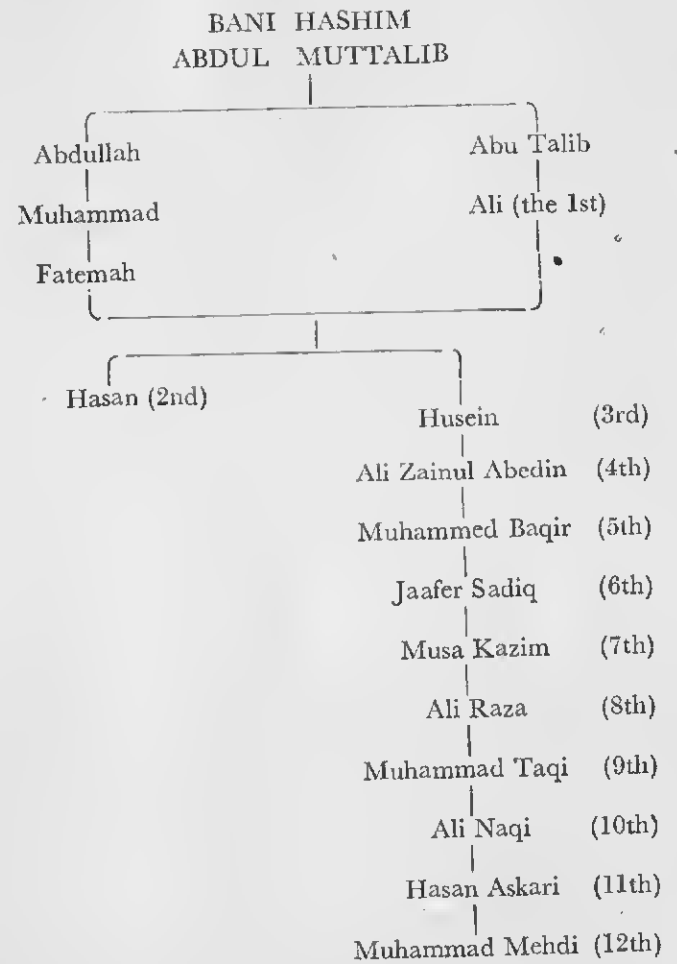
30. Prosperity consists not in the increase of money and children but in the growth of virtue and development of patience.
31. Right is the best argument.
32. Sinning is a disease, repentance is its medicine and abstaining from it, is its cure.
33. Trust in God, is the best founded aspiration.
34. The highest aspiration of Ali is to guide the world.
35. There is no disease more hopeless than want of wisdom.
36. The greedy are slaves of their desires.
37. The best speech is what is short and reasonable.
38. The best of men is he who benefits men.
39. To be ungrateful is to put a stop on gifts.
40. There is no redeemer better than repentance.
41. The chief aim of Islam, is submission to God.
42. The power to forbear anger is superior to that of taking revenge.
43. The strongest of men is he who subdues his passions.
44. The love of the world is the root of all troubles.

45. There is no sincerity in a back-biter.
 46. Want of sincerity spoils good deeds.
 47. Want of sense cannot be compensated by wealth.
 48. With patience, misfortunes are no misfortunes.
 49. Your tongue will speak out what it is accustomed to.
 50. Yielding to anger means shame and sin.
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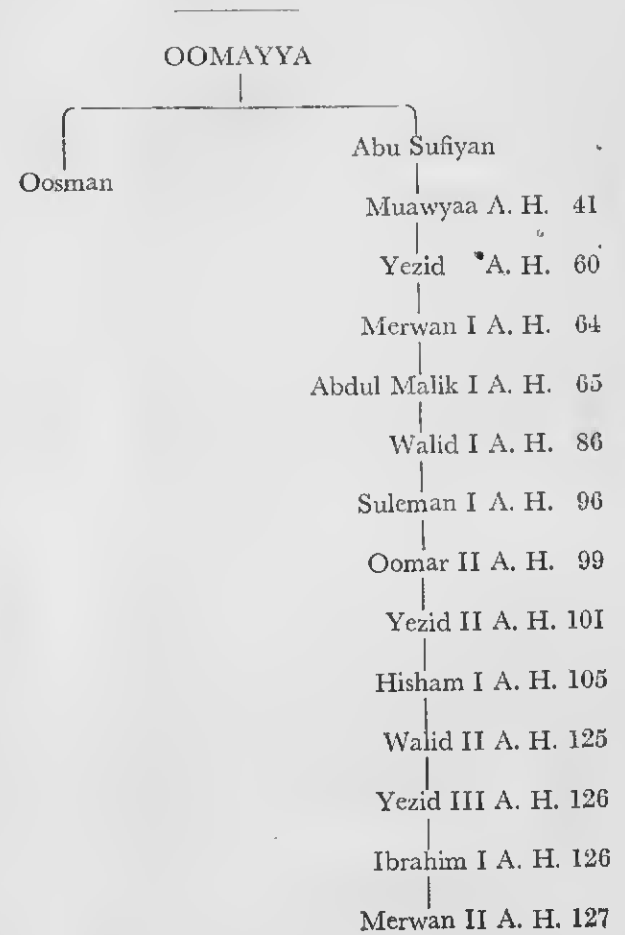
PART II

Muhammad, Fatemah and 12 Apostle Imam

LINEAL CHART OF THE 12 APOSTOLIC IMAM



LINEAL CHART OF BANI OOMAYYA



MUHAMMAD

The lives of Muhammad and Ali are so interwoven that one cannot think, read or write without mentioning both.

Muhammad was born in Mecca on 17th Rabi-ul-Awwal B. H. 52. He married Bibi Khadijah in B. H. 27 at the age of 25. In B. H. 12 when he was 40, he received the first revelation. When he was 52, he had to migrate to Medina, where he passed away at the age of 62 on 28th Safar 11 A. H.

Ali has said :—

“I testify that there is no god but Allah and I testify that Muhammad is the servant and Prophet from God sent with the Famous Faith and the written Book with strong commands and prohibitions to remove the doubts and superstitions of the people and to give reasonings and proofs.”

“He was sent to make the people fear the signs of God and His punishment. God has done us a big favour by giving us such a Prophet so that we may follow him.”

“God created the Holy Prophet Muhammad when there was none in Arabia. He testified the previous prophets. In his boyhood he was the best person. In his old age he was the best in all the creation. He descended from the best family. He excelled all in generosity.”

“The hearts of the virtuous and good people turn to him. He has established brotherhood. His word is the Word of God. He gave them the Message of God without minimizing or magnifying it.”

"He gives eyes to those who earnestly seek guidance and he recited the Holy Quran. He is the Fountain of Knowledge and Light of the world."

"He is a great Physician. The ointment of his knowledge is very effective and unfailing. He searches for those houses where there is no peace and confusion reigns."

"O Creator of every creature according to its fate! Bestow the choicest blessings on Thy Servant and Apostle Muhammad, who is the Conqueror of hidden knowledge, who spoke and proclaimed Truth in the face of dangers, who crushed the supporters of falsehood and of powerful but misguided people. He fought Thy enemies and defeated them. He showed the Right Path to the misguided people."

"He is Thy Trustee and knew Thy secrets. He shall testify on the Day of Judgement. Reward him handsomely. Let him intercede for his followers, for he is just and can distinguish between right and wrong."

"All praise is due to Allah, Who cannot even be imagined. No person, however wise he may be, can understand Him."

"Muhammad is the last of All the Prophets. There shall be no Prophet after him. Revelation came to an end on his passing away. The sons of the Holy Prophet are the best sons and his Ahl-ul-Bait are the best Ahl-ul-Bait. Follow your Apostolic Imams."

FATEMAH

Fatemah, the only daughter of the Holy Prophet of Islam, was born in Mecca on 20th Jamadi-ul-Akher B. H. 18.

The good and noble lady Khadijah and the Apostle of Mercy bestowed all their natural love, care and devotion on their lovable and only child Fatemah, who in her turn was extremely fond of her parents.

The Princess of the House of the Prophet was very intelligent, accomplished and cheerful. Her sermons, poems and sayings serve as an index to her strength of character and nobility of mind.

Her virtues gained her the title "Our Lady of Light" She was tall, slender and endowed with great beauty, which caused her to be called "Az-Zahra" the Beautiful Light.

After arriving in Medina she was married to Ali in A. H. 1 and she gave birth to three sons and 2 daughters.

Among her children, Hasan, Husein, Zainab and Ume Kulsum are well known for their piety, goodness and generosity. Their strength of character and actions changed the course of history.

The Holy Prophet said, "Fatemah is a piece of my heart." He would go out to receive his daughter whenever she came from her husband's house. Every morning on his way to the Mosque, he would pass by Fatemah's house and say "Assallam-o-Alaikum Ya Ahl-al-Bait-in-Naboowath, wo, Maadan-ir-Risalnuth."

Fatemah is famous and acknowledged as the "Sayyada-e-Nisa-e-Alameen"—Leader of all the women of the world for all times—because the Prophethood of Muhammad would not have been complete without her. The Prophet is the perfect example for men, but could not be so for women. For all the verses revealed in the Holy Quran for women, Fatemah is the perfect model, who translated every verse into action. In her life time she was a complete woman, being Daughter, Wife and Mother at the same time.

Muhammad during his life time gave Fatemah a gift of very extensive farm lands, famous as the Bag-e-Fedak, which were documented in her name, as her absolute personal property.

An heiress to the remainder of her mothers wealth, a princess who was the only daughter of a Holy Prophet and a beloved ruler, a lady whose husband was the conqueror of Arab tribes and chieftains and second only to her father in rank and position, Fatemah could have led a luxurious life. But in spite of her wealth and possessions, she worked, dressed, ate and lived very simply. She was very generous. No one who came to her door went away empty handed. Many times she gave away her all and herself went without food.

As a daughter, she loved her parents so much that she won their love and regard to such an extent that the Holy Prophet used to rise whenever she came near him.

As a wife, she was very devoted. She never asked Ali for anything in her whole life.

As a mother she cared for and brought up such wonderful children who have left their marks on the face of the world, which time will not be able to erase.

The death of the Apostle affected her too much. She could not help crying the whole time and wept her heart out. She was very sad and grief-stricken.

Unfortunately, after the Prophet, the Government disowned and confiscated her famous Bagh-e-Fedak and gave it to the State. Fatemah was pushed so that the child she was carrying was hurt and the baby-boy Mohsin was still born. Her house was set on fire by the Government.

The tragedy of her father's death and the unkindness of her father's followers were too much for the good, gentle sensitive lady and she breathed her last on 14th Jamadi-ul-Awwal A. H. 11, exactly 75 days after the death of the Holy Prophet of Islam.

Fatemah died in the prime of her life at the age of 28 and was buried in Jannat-ul-Baqi, Medina, Hedjaz.

TWELVE APOSTOLIC IMAMS

The Holy Prophet of Islam has said :—

“ After me there will be twelve Imams or Caliphs.

and

“ *The First of us is Muhammad* ”

“ *The Last of us is Muhammad* ”

“ *In between us are Muhammad* ”

“ *and all of us are like Muhammad for we all are from one Noor.* ”

FIRST APOSTOLIC IMAM ALI

The First Apostolic Imam or Caliph of Allah is Ali.

He was born in Mecca on 13th Rajab 23 B. H. and was murdered at Kufa at the age of 62 on 21st Ramzan 40 A. H. He is buried in Najaf-Iraq.

The Holy Prophet has said,

“ *If you want to see the Knowledge of Adam, the Piety of Nuh, the Devotion of Ibrahim, the Awe of Musa and the Service and Abstinence of Isa look at the Bright Face of Ali.* ”

Ali has said,

“ The descendants of the Prophet are his Confidants, the Sheltor of his commands, the Trustees of his knowledge, the Stronghold of the Quran and the Mountains of his Faith.”

“ It is they who have made the bent back of Islam straight. The Muslims were afraid of the unbelievers, but they made them bold and brave.”

“ None of the followers of Muhammad can be compared with the descendants of the Prophet. The recipients cannot be equal to the bestowers of blessings.”

“ The Ahl-ul-Bait are the Foundation of Islam and Pillars of Faith.”

“ Every Muslim is dependant upon them for help and guidance to attain salvation.”

"They enjoy the privilege and right of Imamate and Caliphate, which they retain. Now he who was the rightful and deserving heir to the Caliphate has got it."

"The worshippers and followers of falsehood have always been in majority and the supporters of Truth have always been few in number."

"When the Prophet passed away, many people left the progeny of the Prophet and helped others. They left those whom they were ordered to love."

The Caliphate was handed over to other persons, who were worldly wise, with the usual human failings. They never had nor claimed any spiritual powers, nor were they sinless.

"O people! Let it be known to you that we are the descendants of the Holy Prophet. Angles come to us. We are the fountains of learning. We are the springs of wisdom and knowledge of God."

"He who is our friend and helper deserves the Mercy of God and he who is our enemy, waits for the punishment of God. They speak lies against us and do injustice to us."

"God has elevated our position and he has made them inferior to us. He has opened the eyes of the people through us."

"Verily the Imams shall be from Qureish, who are the descendants of Bani Hashim. None but the Bani Hashim deserve Imamat."

"I advise you not to associate anything with God and do not spoil the Sunnat of the Prophet. Keep these two pillars and you will be safe from blame and sins."

"Your Religion is straight and your Imam wise. I was your friend during the life-time of the Prophet. Know it well that the Imams are appointed Caliphs by God. They rule over the people for God. Know it well that we are the true Companions of the Holy Prophet. We are the doors of his learnings. It is not lawful to enter houses, but through its doors. He who disregards this rule is a thief."

"Only those people who obey Allah and His Apostle shall go to Paradise and those who do otherwise shall go to Hell. Verily God made you Muslims and he wants you to be sincere Muslims. He who recognizes God, His Prophet and his Ahl-ul-Bait and even if he dies in bed and not in Jihad he is a Shaheed."

"Ask me anything before I die. I shall leave you tomorrow, the day of my death."

"Now I bid you good-bye; you will find my place vacant and realize my worth. You will remember me when others succeed me to Caliphate."

SECOND APOSTOLIC IMAM HASAN

Imam Hasan, the son of Ali, was born in Medina on 15th Ramzan 3 A. H. and at the age of 46 was poisoned by Muawyya on 28th Safar 50 A. H. He is buried in Jannat-ul-Baqi, Medina, Hedjaz.

He resembled the Prophet much and was famous for his generosity, hospitality, goodness and gentle manners. He is known as the "Karim-e-Ahl-ul-Bait".

The Prophet has said,

"Hasan and Husein are the leaders of youths of Paradise".

Hasan was unanimously acclaimed the Caliph at Kufa after his father's death. Hardly had the new Caliph been seated, when Muawyya invaded Iraq.

He disintegrated Hasan's small army by bribery, corruption and threats.

Hasan was made to agree to Muawyya's Caliphate for life and upon Muawyya's death, it was to revert to Imam Husein.

Hasan with his family retired to Medina and Muawyya became the ruler of Islam.

Thus by one of the strangest freaks of fortune recorded in history, the persecutors of Muhammad usurped the inheritance of his children and the champions of idolatory became the supreme heads of Muhammad's Religion.

THIRD APOSTOLIC IMAM HUSEIN

Husein, the second son of Ali, was born in Medina on 3rd Shaban 4 A. H. and was killed in Kerbala by Yezid on 10th Muharram 61 A. H. at the age of 56. He is buried in Kerbala-Iraq.

He had inherited his father's and grand-father's virtues and chivalrous disposition and combined in his person the right of descent both from the Prophet and Ali.

In the terms of the peace treaty signed between Muawyya and Imam Hasan, Husein's right to Caliphate had been expressly reserved. But on the death of Muawyya, Yezid inherited the Caliphate.

Imam Husein never acknowledged Yezid, the tyrant of Damascus as Caliphat-ul-Allah, whose vices he despised and whose character he regarded with abhorrence.

But Yezid started persecuting those who refused to accept him as a Caliph and to offer Baiuth (pledge of fidelity) to him. He issued orders to the governor of Medina to force Imam Husein to take the oath of Baiuth or to kill him if he refused to do so.

As Mecca was the holiest city of Islam and nobody was allowed to be killed within its precincts under orders of

God, Imam Husein went to Mecca with his family in Rajab. He would not accept Yezid as a Caliph and he wanted to avoid bloodshed. In Mecca he started leading a very retired life. Though he received several letters from Kufa offering him help and protection yet he did not reply to any one of them. But by Ramzan messengers from Yezid arrived with orders to the governor of Mecca to kill Imam Husein. When the governor could not comply with these orders Yezid started sending mercenaries to assassinate this Imam even inside the premises of Kaaba if necessary.

Realizing this Husein felt that Mecca was as unsafe for him now as it was for his grand-father during the early days of Islam. He left Mecca for Kufa.

Husein arrived in Kerbala accompanied by several kinsmen, a few devoted friends and ladies and children of the House of Prophet.

He was overtaken by the Oomayyade army and for days their tents were surrounded by the murderous and pitiless ruffians. They cut off the waters of the Eupharates from the children of the Holy Prophet so that not a drop was available for 3 days.

Husein proposed the option of three honorable conditions :-

- (1) That he should be allowed to return to Medina.
- (2) Be allowed to go out of the Muslim empire.
- (3) Or safely conducted to the presence of Yezid.

But the tyrants would not agree. As a last resort Husein asked them not to fight against the helpless women and children, but to take his life and end the unequal contest. But they knew no pity.

He told his companions to take the women and children to safety. He said, "I have given my promise to Allah and the Holy Prophet to uphold the truth of Islam and not to lower the dignity of man before power and might. In fulfilling this promise, I am sure to be killed, but it is not necessary for you to lose your lives for me. I shall be happy if you go away; leave me alone; this struggle to uphold the dignity of human right will be easier for me if I am left alone." But his companions refused to desert him or survive their beloved Imam.

Hur, one of the chiefs of Yezid's army, struck with horror at the sacrilege of fighting against the grandson of the Prophet, left with his son to join Imam Husein to claim the partnership of inevitable death.

In every single combat and close fight the valour of Husein's soldiers was invincible. But the enemy archers picked them off from a safe distance.

One by one the defenders fell, until at last there remained the grandson of the Prophet; wounded and dying he re-entered his tent and took his infant child in his arms and requested them to take this dying baby (of six months) from his hands and to give him some water to drink, but the response was an arrow through the small neck of the infant.

Lifting his hands to Heaven, he uttered a funeral prayer for the living and the dead and raising himself for one desperate charge he threw himself among the Oomayyades who fell back on every side. They would not stand before his sword but riddled him with arrows from a distance.

.. Weary and faint with loss of blood he soon sank to the ground in a Sajda. The murderous crew rushed upon the dying hero and cut off his head from behind and savagely trampled his body.

Thus fell the noblest human being along with all the male members of his family-young and old-with the solitary exception of his sick son Imam Ali Zain-ul-Abedin, whom Bibi Zainab saved from being murdered in cold blood in his sick bed.

The butchery at Kerbala caused a thrill of horror throughout Islam and gave birth to a national sentiment among the God-fearing Muslims to keep burning the torch of Truth and Islam.

In the name of election, plebiscite and democracy, the Ahl-ul-Bait were deprived of their inheritance and divine right of Caliphate. Yezid and all the Oomayyade and Abbaside Caliphs inherited the thrown of their father's whilst the heirs of the Prophet were denied their right.

For the time being, it seemed tyranny was triumphant, but its reactions are cruel, terrible and revolting.

These happenings have laid a foundation for political murders in Muslim States and the Fatwas of literate ignorants, known as Molvis and Mullahs, have made life difficult for the Muslims.

Abbas, the son of Ali by Um-ul Banin, was the fourth and the last flag bearer of the standard of the Holy Prophet of Islam. The Arabs killed this wonderful Lion of God, and destroyed the flag of the Holy Prophet in Kerbala for ever.

According to the Holy Quran,

“ On the most Elevated Place there shall be men who know all by their marks and they shall call out to the dwellers of the garden ”.

“ Peace be on you, they shall not have yet entered it, though they hope ”.

The “ Men on the Aaraf ” Elevated place are :-

- (1) Hamza (2) Jaafar-e-Taiyyar
- (3) Ali and (4) Abbas.

God exalted and exclusively reserved this position and rank only for the four flag bearers of the Standard of the Holy Prophet of Islam.

FOURTH APOSTOLIC IMAM ALI ZAIN-UL-ABEDIN

Ali, the son of Imam Husein, was born in Medina on 15th Jamadi-ul-Awwal 38 A. H. and was poisoned at the age of 56 by Walid Ibne Abdul Malik on 25th Moharram 95 A. H. He is buried in Jannat-ul-Baqi, Medina-Hedjaz.

His life is shrouded in the tragedy of Kerbala. His devotion, piety and angelic life won for him, the titles of Zain-ul-Abedin and Syed-us-Sajedin.

Zainab, the illustrious daughter of Ali and Fatemah, took care of Imam Zain-ul-Abedin, the only male member of the House of the Prophet, and all the widowed and orphaned princesses, after the massacre of Kerbala.

She bravely and eloquently protected Imam Zain-ul-Abedin in the courts of Kufa and Damascus, at the same time preaching the Religion of her grandfather. The world owes to her a debt of gratitude for putting on the pages of history the happenings at Kerbala, Kufa and Damascus.

Like her father and brothers, she was martyred being clubbed to death in Damascus on 16th Zilhaj 62 A. H.

FIFTH APOSTOLIC IMAM MUHAMMAD BAQIR

Muhammad, the son of Imam Zain-ul-Abedin, was born in Medina on 1st Rajab 57 A. H. and was poisoned at the age of 56 by Hisham, the Oomayyade ruler, on 7th Zilhaj 114 A. H. He is buried in Jannat-ul-Baqi, Medina-Hedjaz.

He is famous as Imam Muhammad Baqir which means "the Opener of Divine Knowledge." He is also known as Alim-e-Aal-e-Muhammad.

He taught the Muslims how to make currency coins. Before this, the Roman currency was in use.

Oomer Abdul Aziz, the only good ruler among the Bani Oomayyas, on ascending the throne, gave back Bagh-e-Fedak to Imam Muhammad Baqir, saying the confiscation was illegal and the property must be restored to the rightful owner.

The Arabs killed Oomer the Second (Oomer Ibne Abdul Aziz) after two years because he was so kind to Aal-e-Rasool.

Starting from the murder of Ali by Muawyya, the Bani Oomayya and Bani Abbas tried to exterminate the descendants of the Holy Prophet; but Allah put Barkat in them and from one Imam Zain-ul-Abedin, God multiplied them into hundreds of thousands. Imam Muhammad Baqir was blessed with 15 children.

Because of persecution, the Aal-e-Rasool had to take refuge in far off lands. It is the descendants of Holy Prophet who spread Islam all over the world.

While the Ommayyads and Abbasites were busy in creating empires evolving civilization in the wake of Romans, Persians and Greeks, the Aal-e-Rasool were doing their best to fight evil and to teach Islam as it was taught by the Rasool (the Holy Prophet).

SIXTH APOSTOLIC IMAM JAAFER SADIQ

Jaafer, the son of Imam Muhammad Baqir, was born in Medina on 17th Rabi-ul-Awwal 83 A. H. and was poisoned at the age of 64 by Mansoor Davanaki on 15th Rajab 148 A. H. He is buried in Jannat-ul-Baqi, Medina-Hedjaz.

During Imam Jaafer Sadiq's life time the power of Oomayyade rulers was coming to an end and Bani Abbas were fighting them to get power, pomp, wealth and kingdom.

Neither of them molested Imam Jaafer Sadiq and hence he got some time to tell the Muslims about Islam, the Holy Quran and its commentary, Hadis and Fiqah.

In the Masjid-e-Nabavi, Medina, Imam Jaafer Sadiq lectured from Mimber-e-Rasool to more than 3000 scholars. He is the Father of Islamic Jurisprudence or Shariat Law. Among those who attended his lectures was Abu Hanifa. Shias have collected almost everything preached by this Imam and base their religion on teachings of Ali which have reached them through Imam Jaafer-e-Sadiq and his illustrious father.

Like the Oomayyade the Abbaside rulers killed the Caliph of God and Apostolic Imams and started calling themselves Caliphs and employed Abu Hanifa, Malik, Shafai and Hamble as state priests, whom they started calling Imams.

It has never been possible to rule the Muslims for long without the sanction of the Quran, therefore the rulers have always found necessary the services of Ulemas to interpret the Quran and Hadis to justify their un-Islamic actions.

SEVENTH APOSTOLIC IMAM MUSA-KAZIM

Musa, the second son of Imam Jaafer Sadiq, was born in Medina on 7th Safar 128 A. H. and was poisoned at the age of 54 by Harun-ur-Rashid on 25th Rajab 183 A. H. He is buried in Kadhimein-Iraq.

Imam Musa-e-Kazim was a very devout and pious person. He was famous as a repressor of anger and grief. Most of his life was spent in the dungeons of Baghdad.

His elder brother, Ismail, died in the life-time of his father. Before burying Ismail, Imam Jaafer Sadiq put down his Janaza four times at different places to show the people that Ismail was dead and that his second son Musa would succeed him as Imam.

But religious and political racketeers took the descendants of Ismail to Egypt, Persia, Turkistan, India and Africa and established the Ismaili Sect.

EIGHT APOSTOLIC IMAM ALI RAZA

Ali, the son of Musa-e-Kazim, was born in Medina on 11th Zilkad 153 A. H. and was poisoned at the age of 59 by Mamoun on 17th Safar 213 A. H. He is buried in Meshed-Khorasan-Iran.

On the death of Haroon-ur-Rashid his two sons Amin and Mamoun started fighting. Fearing that another shark might take advantage of the domestic dispute, Mamoun made a clever move to enlist the support and sympathy of the general public. He sent for Imam Ali Musa-e-Raza and appointed him as an heir-apparent in spite of Imam's refusal and gave him large tracts of land.

Mamoun was a very learned ruler, but had very wavering tendencies. Sometimes his leanings towards truth and justice were very marked, at other times when he desired to be a despot and to enjoy life he behaved like an infidel. It may be a case of double personality. Under one of these moods he poisoned Imam Raza, because he was afraid of the influence of unsullied truth and justice so near him, and was afraid that people would leave him and start following the Imam. Some historians believe that as soon as the danger to Mamoun's throne was gone, he poisoned Imam Ali Raza.

NINETH APOSTOLIC IMAM MUHAMMAD TAQI

Muhammad, the son of Imam Ali Musa-e-Raza, was born in Medina, on 10th Rajab 195 A. H. and was poisoned at the age of 25 by Mustasim Billah on 29th Zilkad 220 A. H. He is buried in Kadhimein-Iraq.

Islamic tolerance was replaced by military tyranny. In the mosques fear of God was replaced by strict order and regimentation.

Religion was enforced in the mosques by the orders of the rulers. But the injunctions of the Holy Quran were ignored in the day-to-day life and dealings between human beings. It appeared that Islam was forced in and confined to the mosques.

TENTH APOSTOLIC IMAM ALI NAQI

Ali, the son of Muhammad Taqi, was born in Medina on 15th Zilhaj 214 A. H. and was poisoned at the age of 39 by Motiz Billah on 26th Jamadi-us-Sani 254 A. H. He is buried in Samarra-Iraq.

As the rulers of Baghdad became more powerful, proud and arrogant, they started killing the Apostolic Imams quickly, because the Muslims loved and respected the Apostolic Imams for their piety, goodness, charity and knowledge.

The rulers could not buy the regard of the people with all their wealth and military might. In their rage, the only thing they could do was murder the Imams. Imam Muhammad Taqi was thrown in the prison and killed at the tender age of 25.

Imam Ali Naqi was also thrown in the dungeon. When Motiz Billah finished building his new huge capital at Samarra, he went in a procession to see it. The tyrant was carried on his throne by his slaves and took out Imam Ali Naqi from the dungeon and made him run before him.

The Imam said, "The toe nail of my foot is more sacred than the she-camel of Saleh. The people killed the she-camel and God destroyed them within 3 days."

"We the Ahl-ul-Bait, are Rahmat-ul-Alameen and we do not curse the people, otherwise God would have destroyed them every time they harmed us.

ELEVENTH APOSTOLIC IMAM HASAN ASKARI

Hasan, the son of Imam Ali Naqi, was born in Medina on 10th Rabi-us-Sani 232 A. H. and was poisoned at the age of 27 by Mutamid Billah on 8th Rabi-ul-Awwal 260 A. H. He is buried at Samarra, Iraq.

All Apostolic Imams are gifted with Divine Grace, great spiritual Knowledge and Power.

The ruler, in order to impress and frighten the Imam, ordered a parade of his armed might. The Imam nobly ignored the ruler, who was angered at his indifference.

The Imam said that God had given him a much bigger and more powerful force than the ruler had. He asked the ruler to see between his two fingers, and "Be-iznillah", the tyrant saw a huge army of angels, much bigger and more powerful than his own army of mercenary soldiers. For this reason he is known as Imam Hasan Askari.

The frightened ruler threw the Imam into prison and poisoned him. In spite of his Spiritual Powers, the Imam bowed to the will of God and accepted the Shahadat.

TWELFTH APOSTOLIC IMAM MUHAMMAD MEHDI

Muhammad, the son of Imam Hasan Askari, was born in Medina, on 15th Shaban 256 A. H.

Every Muslim believes that Imam Muhammad Mehdi will come again on earth before Qayamat.

Imam Muhammad Mehdi is the last of the twelve Apostolic Imams and God has endowed him with a long life in the same way as Khawaja Khizer, Idris and Isa.

Owing to the persecution of the rulers, the Imam first disappeared in 261 A. H. and finally in 328 A. H.

Imam Muhammad Mehdi is living but he is Glaib. He is the Divine Guide on earth till the Day of Ressurrection. His Ghaibat is necessary for a long life against the vicissitudes of time and for his immediate presence in any spot of the world whenever needed for Divine Guidance to humanity.

When the Imam re-appears, the Kingdom of God will be established on Earth.

LINEAL CHART OF BANI ABBAS

As Saffah	A. H. 132
Al Mansoor	A. H. 136
Al Mehdi	A. H. 158
Al Hadi	A. H. 169
Haroon Rashid	A. H. 170
Al Amin	A. H. 193
Al Mamoon	A. H. 198
Al Mustasim Billah	A. H. 218
Al Wasiq Billah	A. H. 227
Al Mutawakkil	A. H. 232
Al Mostansir	A. H. 247
Al Mutain Billah	A. H. 248
Al Motiz Billah	A. H. 252
Al Muhtadi Billah	A. H. 255
Al Motamid	A. H. 256
Al Mutazid	A. H. 279
Al Muktafi	A. H. 289
Al Muqtadir	A. H. 295
Al Khair Billah	A. H. 320
Al Razi Billah	A. H. 322
Al Muttaqi	A. H. 329
Al Mustafi	A. H. 333

PART III

FOUR SHEIKH

AND

BOKHARI.

FOUR SHEIKHS

(1) ABU HANIFA

Abu Hanifa Al Noman Ibne-e-Sabit was born in Kufa about 80 A. H. and died about 150 A. H. at the age of 70. Definite dates and years of his birth and death are not available. He is buried in Baghdad.

He was employed by the Oomayyade as well as the Abbaside rulers. It is reported that occasionally he used to attend the wonderful, enlightening and inspiring lectures delivered by Imams Muhammad Baqir and Jaafar Sadiq in Masjid-e-Nabavi in Medina. But Abu Hanifa disagreed with and disobeyed the great Teachers and enunciated his own doctrines.

The Arabian writer Alsharistani says that the Hanafites, the first Sunni Sect, are called "the followers of reason and they are principally guided by their own judgement and decision".

The sect of Abu Hanifa prevailed chiefly in Iraq. It was in the reign of Haroon-ur-Rashid that the Hanafi school of thought began to acquire a systematic shape at the hands of jurists headed by Abu Yusuf, the chief Kazi of the Empire.

About 175 years after the Prophet, Haroon-ur-Rashid organised the people and called them "Ahl-us-Sunnat-wal-Jamaat" meaning the followers of Hadis as well as the wishes of the people.

The Hanafite doctrine was revived after 800 years by the Turks with the rise of the Ottoman Empire.

All his life Abu Hanifa tried to please the rulers by doing what they wished. But in his old age he disagreed with some of them and when a ruler wanted to make him a judge, he refused and could not be prevailed upon either by threats or illtreatment, "choosing to be punished by the rulers than by God" says Al Ghazali.

Al Ghazali adds, "He excused himself by saying that he was unfit to be a judge."

For disagreeing with the ruler he was thrown into prison and he ended his life there, after many years.

(2) MALIK

The second Sunni Sect is that of Malik Ibne Anes Asbehi. He was born in Medina in 93 A. H. and died there in 178 A. H. at the age of 85.

This Sheikh disagreed with Abu Hanifa and put great importance to the Hadis of the Prophet.

In his last illness, a friend found him in tears. When asked the reason, Malik answered "How should I not weep? Would to God, I had never given any decisions of my own."

Al Ghazali writes that being once asked his opinion on 48 questions, his answer to 32 of them was that he did not know. It was no easy matter to make so frank a confession of ones ignorance.

The doctrine of Malik is chiefly followed in North-West and other parts of Africa.

(3) SHAFAI

The author of the third Sunni Sect was Muhammad Ibne-Idris Al-Shafai. He was born in Palestine in 150 A. H. and died in Egypt in 204 A. H. at the age of 54.

His contemporary, Ahmed Ibne-Hambal, had so poor an opinion of Al-Shafai that he forbade his scholars to go near him.

It is said that the relators of the Hadis were asleep till Al-Shafai came and woke them up.

The followers of this Shaikh spread Eastwards into Arabia, Persia, India and China.

(4) HAMBAL

Ahmed Ibne Hambal, the founder of the fourth Sunni Sect was born in Iraq in 164 A. H. and died in Baghdad in 241 A. H. at the age of 77.

Hambal attained great fame. He was very intimate with Al Shafai, from whom he received most of his knowledge of Hadis. For refusing to acknowledge the arrangement of The Holy Quran, he was imprisoned by the order of Mutawakkil, the Abbaside ruler.

 SECT IN ISLAM

The first controversies began when the rights of the Apostolic Imams, the rightful successors of the Holy Prophet were usurped and when most of the companions of Muhammad were dead.

The Arabs continual employment in the wars allowed them no time or leisure to enter into deeper and finer inquiries and distinctions; but no sooner was the ardour of conquest a little abated, then they began to examine and study the Holy Quran.

Differences of opinion became unavoidable and so greatly multiplied that the number of sects went up to 73.

This was prophesied by the Holy Prophet and it is said that only one of these sects will be true and entitled to salvation.

BOKHARI

Bokhari was born in Bokhara in 194 A. H. and died in 256 A. H. in Samarkand at the age of 62.

Unfortunately he became blind in his childhood. When he was 16, he went with his parents to Mecca to perform Haj and stayed back to collect the Hadis of the Holy Prophet.

From Mecca he went to Damascus and Iraq and started asking for Hadis of the Holy Prophet from the enemies of the Ahl-ul-Bait, the Bani Oomayya and the Bani Abbas.

Most of Bokharis narrators are from Bani Oomayya and Bani Abbas. His chief narrator is Abu Horaira, who was unknown till Bokhari discovered him. Going through the pages of history, it is found that Abu Horaira's name has never been markedly associated with the Holy Prophet. Even Bibi Aesha hated Abu Horaira and called him a liar and a coiner of Hadis.

Bokhari put down only four thousand Hadis in black and white out of the six lacs he is supposed to have known. These he has classified in several categories, such as reliable, semi-reliable and unreliable.

Abu Hanifa, Malik, Shafai, Hambal and Bokhari could not agree with each other.

Bokhari's efforts were not appreciated by the Ulemas and he was persecuted from place to place till he arrived in Samarkand, where he died.

CONCLUSION

With the establishment of The Republic of Turkey, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and The Republic of Egypt, gone are the days of Caliphs and Caliphate and the Imams employed by them.

The causes of quarrels, hatreds and ignorance have vanished and the Muslims once more have the opportunity for unity, enlightenment and progress.

May God guide us by the light of the Holy Quran and let us follow the Perfect Exemplar, Hayat-un-Nabi Muhammad and let us look for spiritual inspiration in the lives of Shahids who are spiritually alive and not dead.

THE END